



News and Events in the 5th Grade
November 7, 2011
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Important Dates

Nov. 8	Think Energy Presentation
Nov. 8	Outdoor Education Health Form Due
Nov. 10	Persuasive Essay Final Draft Due
Nov. 10	Literature Circle Final Assessment
Nov. 11	No School
Nov. 17	Social Studies Research Paper Rough Draft Due
Dec. 5-6	Outdoor Education

Dear Families,

This year's Outdoor Education experience will be held at the Lorado Taft field campus in Oregon, Illinois. Students will leave on Monday, December 5, spend the night at the field campus and return on Tuesday, December 6. The cost of the trip will be approximately \$65. A permission slip, along with the final fee amount, will be distributed in a few weeks. The health form was sent home with your child last week. Please carefully complete the double-side form and have your child return it to school by tomorrow. We will need several men and women to chaperone this field trip. If you would like to spend the night with your child (and 30 of his/her best friends), please let your child's homeroom teacher know.

On Tuesday, a representative from Nicor's Think Energy program will be here to give the 5th grade students a special presentation on energy and water conservation. Students will be given conservation kits for use at home. In order for your child to receive a kit, we must have a signed permission slip authorizing your child's participation. The permission slips were sent home last week. Please make sure that your child has returned his/her permission slip so that he/she can receive a kit tomorrow.

Specials

Art - The Art Room blog is back! Please check out www.owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com. Here you can see what your student is learning about in Art, and see our artwork as well.

Music - All 5th Graders will need to complete a Composer's Monthly before the end of the trimester. They are located in each student's music notebook, which is normally kept in the music classroom. However, at any point in the trimester they may take their books home to complete this assignment, as long as they bring the book back before the next music class. To complete the assignment, they need to pick September, October or November's composer of the month, read the article, and then answer the questions at the article on the notebook paper in the back of the music notebook. For extra credit they may do the activity pages but it is not required. If you have any questions please email Mrs. Karia at akaria@op97.org.

Spanish - Students will have a reading and listening comprehension quiz this week on their current story *El Muchacho Pastor* this week. They can still read the story to someone for extra puntos. You can find it at: www.mpoleski.blogspot.com

Library - Information can be found on the Holmes Library page on our school website, <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>.

Physical Education - Please see Mr. Williams' link (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com) for information.



Reading/Literature

This week students will complete their study of the novel The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis. Students have been working on compiling a presentation around the culture, geography, economics and history of Afghanistan. They will have some time in class to finish their projects and then present them to their classmates on Wednesday, Nov. 9th. There will be a final assessment over their comprehension of the novel on Thursday, Nov. 10th that will include an extended response question.

Group Project Due & Presentation - November 9th
Final Literature Circle Assessment - Thurs, Nov. 10th

Language Arts/Writing

Writing Assignment: Persuasive essays are due on **Thursday, November 10th**. We will begin a Figurative Language Unit this week that will last approximately 3-4 weeks. We will examine how authors use figurative language to enhance their writing, and students will compose several poems using the techniques discussed in class. This week we will focus on similes and begin our Self-Portrait Simile poems.

Grammar Focus: We will continue with understanding the rules of singular and plural nouns, as well as how appositives describe a noun in greater detail.

Math

Graded Unit 4 (division) tests went home last week. Please make sure that you review the test with your child, sign it, and return the test to school. Students who earned less than a '3' on the test may correct the test and turn it in for regrading. All corrected tests must be turned in for regrading by this Thursday.

This week, we will continue to work on converting between fractions and mixed numbers. Last week, students worked with pattern blocks as visual representations of mixed numbers. This week, we will also practice naming mixed numbers and fractions without pattern blocks. We will also working on finding equivalent fractions. We will use a fraction stick chart and a fraction fringe and then develop a formula for finding equivalent fractions. We will have a quiz on Thursday covering mixed numbers and improper fractions.

Science

Graded Pollution unit tests went home last week. Please make sure that you review the test with your child, sign it and have your child return the test to school. Students who received a '2' or lower on the Pollution Unit test may correct the test and turn it in for regrading. Students may come in during study hall for assistance with correcting the test. All corrected tests must be turned in for regrading by **November 10**.

This week, we will be learning about renewable and nonrenewable sources of energy. Tomorrow's Think Energy presentation will cover energy and water conservation.

Social Studies

Students will have time to continue their research projects in class this week and may need additional time at home after this week. The rough draft of the paper is due **Thursday, November 17**.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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